

IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing grave concerns about Iran's irresponsible violations both of its commitments under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, NPT, and its agreements which it signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA.

In the last year, I have joined my colleagues on a number of occasions to express the concerns of this body about these activities. Last February, I supported passage of a resolution that would condemn Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations while commending diplomatic efforts being taken by France, Germany, and the U.K. (EU-3) to suspend Iran's activities.

I have also voted to condemn Iranian President Ahmadinejad's persistent denials of the Holocaust and his assertions that Israel should be "wiped off the map." I have also supported legislation just this year authorizing State and local government pension plans to divest themselves of all non-U.S. companies investing more than \$20 million in Iran's energy sector.

It is clear that the threat posed by Iran acquiring nuclear weapons is real. Therefore, it is all the more important that this Congress support efforts that will help provide, and not restrict, the diplomatic, economic, and political tools available to address it. Just 10 months ago, Congress recognized that when it reauthorized the Iran Freedom Support Act to enhance U.S. tools for using financial means to address Iran's activities.

As the House considers H.R. 1400, there are provisions of this bill that are commendable and which are worthwhile and which I support. In fact, in July, I voted for some of these provisions such as those expanding the law's scope to add financial institutions, insurers, underwriters, guarantors, and any other business organizations, including foreign subsidiaries, to the list of entities already barred from investing in Iran which were included in H.R. 957 which passed the House by a vote of 415-11.

However, I could not support H.R. 1400 as currently written because I am concerned that its provision striking the ability of the President—this President or any future one—to waive sanctions in situations where it serves the U.S. national interest. I am concerned that removing this ability will hinder, not help, our diplomatic or national security interests.

Some have warned that the approach taken by this legislation would not only limit diplomatic options with Iran, but also create a rift with our allies in Europe and possibly strengthen support for President Ahmadinejad's regime in Iran. I think we ought to take those concerns seriously. At a time when the U.S. and the world should be in lock step in trying to deal with the Iranian threat, Congress should not put one more obstacle in the way.

The reason Congress has been careful to add waiver authority to a number of sanctions provisions over the years—and I must confess

to my own frustration with the use of the waiver authority at times—is that there are situations when it is in the United States' best national security interest to do so. If there are concerns about the President's use of the waiver, there are other options that Congress can pursue. In fact, on some sanctions that are currently on the books, Congress has given itself the power to negate a presidential waiver by enacting a joint resolution stating its disapproval.

If this legislation were enacted, companies headquartered in a nation that have committed to work with us at the U.N. or within the E.U. to pressure Iran would be treated no differently from one headquartered in a nation that was actively supporting investment in Iran's energy sector. It makes no sense to argue that we are "enhancing diplomacy" by taking away the ability, on a case-by-case basis, to waive sanctions as an incentive for those countries taking responsible actions to address U.S. concerns and Iran's activities.

Everyone agrees that working cooperatively and diplomatically with the U.N., E.U., and others to curb Iran's nuclear program and limit its nuclear activities is the best way to proceed. It is clear that a coherent strategy that has the support of our allies and the international community stands a far better chance of ending Iran's nuclear activities.

However, if this diplomacy is to succeed, those who we charge with carrying out those efforts should be able to go to the bargaining table without one hand being tied behind their backs. While H.R. 1400 declares that the U.S. should use diplomatic and economic means to resolve the Iranian nuclear problem, I am concerned that the bill itself would undermine the very thing it is trying to promote at a time when that unity of effort is the most crucial.

Just 10 months ago, Congress rejected the waiver provision contained in this bill when it last considered how to best enhance the tools available to the administration to deal with Iran's activities. I hope that as this legislation moves forward in the legislative process, further changes will be made to strengthen this bill in a way that will truly enhance, and not hobble, strong diplomatic efforts.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Ms. WATSON. I would like to congratulate the National Foundation for Women Legislators for working to distribute thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies in every U.S. State and Puerto Rico.

These backpacks have been donated by Office Depot and are being distributed to at-risk and disadvantaged youth. As lawmakers we introduce and pass legislation every year that affects our Nation's youth. We talk about statistics and reading performance and free lunch programs, but we do not talk enough about ensuring that all students have the school supplies they need to perform both inside and out of the classroom.

Office Depot's National Backpack Program, now in its seventh year, is designed to make

a difference in communities across the country and put backpacks in the hands of underprivileged and "at-risk" children so they have the tools they need to start the school year. Beginning in 2001 with 80,000 backpacks donated nationwide, the program has expanded to deliver 100,000 backpacks in 2002 and in 2003 and 2004, the program was increased to 200,000 backpacks containing school supplies. In 2005, the program grew to 300,000 backpacks with school supplies and finally, in 2006, 300,000 backpacks were again donated by Office Depot across North America and in Puerto Rico, totaling more than 1 million backpacks in the hands of children since the inception of the program.

Sadly, there are hundreds of thousands of children who can not afford the basic supplies they need for school. This backpack initiative not only alleviates some of the financial burden from the many single-family households that are stretching their budget and have enough to worry about paying for food and bills, but it also allows their children to have the pride of being able to start the school year the right way.

I am proud to say that 1,000 backpacks will be delivered to the Bradley Elementary School in my home district. I ask all of my colleagues in this United States Congress to join me in recognizing the National Foundation for Women Legislators and their partnership with Office Depot, whose efforts to empower our children and provide them the tools they need to be successful in school and in life are to be commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 24, 2007, while returning from a Homeland Security field hearing in New York City my train was delayed, and I missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of:

Rollcall 891, H. Con. Res. 193, recognizing all hunters throughout the United States for their commitment to safety.

Rollcall 892, H. Res. 668, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957 desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

Rollcall 893, H.R. 1199, to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children.

Rollcall 894, H. Res. 340, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims (and families of victims) involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to the fact that I have been appointed by the President of

the United States to be a Congressional Representative to the United Nations, I was in New York City and missed recorded votes on the House Floor on Monday, September 24, 2007 and Tuesday, September 25, 2007.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote Nos. 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 905, and 907. I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote Nos. 902, 903, 904, and 906.

ENSURING WELFARE DOLLARS ARE SPENT WISELY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3656, a bill to better ensure that taxpayer funds for welfare go to help low-income parents go to work, not to support drug habits. I want to thank my friend and colleague, Congressman PHIL ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for sponsoring this legislation and I am glad to join as his chief co-sponsor.

In 1996, the Republican-led Congress passed welfare reforms that emphasized the necessity of work to achieving economic self-sufficiency. As a result of that historic reform, millions of families have moved from welfare dependence to greater self-sufficiency, supported by pro-work benefits including child care funds, health coverage, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Poverty has fallen dramatically, for some groups to record lows.

But there is still more work to do. We all know that too many American parents remain trapped by drug addiction. H.R. 3656 is designed to ensure that our country sends a clearer message about the support available for low-income parents, and what obligations those parents have to stay clean and off of drugs. So this legislation builds upon the success of the 1996 reforms by attempting to better ensure federal tax dollars are spent efficiently and appropriately. Simply put, taxpayer money intended to provide temporary assistance to needy families should not be spent to subsidize drug abuse.

H.R. 3656 expects States to test welfare recipients and applicants for benefits when caseworkers have reason to believe the parent is taking illegal drugs. Not every recipient or applicant, but those for who there is real cause to think that taxpayer funds might wind up furthering a drug habit instead of helping parents find, take and stay in jobs. This common-sense reform will help States identify those in need of substance abuse treatment, and ensure that federal funds are not spent buying illegal drugs.

Madam Speaker, recently in my home state of Illinois, I had an opportunity to meet with members of the Marseilles Concerned Citizens Against Drugs, a group of citizens committed to seeing drug abuse removed from my community. They expressed their dismay that federal dollars are being spent to support an addiction which destroys lives, families, and communities. I couldn't agree more.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to better ensure that welfare assistance is spent appropriately, and that those addicted to

drugs be identified so they can receive the treatment needed to lead more productive lives. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3656.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. As a strong supporter of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), I am pleased that the House is working to extend SCHIP beyond its upcoming September 30, 2007 expiration.

Importantly, the bill before the House today (H.R. 976) does not include many of the Medicare provisions that were included in H.R. 3162. Those provisions would have markedly reduced funding for my constituent seniors, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies. Accordingly, I was compelled to vote against H.R. 3162, even though I have long supported the SCHIP program and its expansion.

H.R. 976 takes the approach set forth in legislation (H.R. 3269) introduced by the gentlewoman from New Mexico, Mrs. WILSON, which I cosponsored. Significantly, under this approach, approximately four million additional children will have access to health insurance through SCHIP and their coverage will not come at the expense of my constituent seniors and health care providers.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD E. "DICK" COOPER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I regret that I must inform the House of the passing of a great American in my home community.

Richard E. "Dick" Cooper was a friend to me and many others in the State of Kentucky, but especially in my hometown of Somerset. Even more than a friend, he was a father figure, a confidant, friend and advisor. And he was humble, giving and modest.

Dick left us August 7, 2007 at 92. He was the Chairman of the Board at Citizens National Bank, and knew practically everyone. In fact, he also likely knew their parents and even grandparents. His devotion to duty was tireless. He came to work every day right up until the day he died. He cared deeply for people.

After completing high school in 1932, he graduated with honors at the University of Kentucky. In 1942, he entered the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific. Back home, in the business community, he very successfully led the Somerset Stone Company before becoming chairman at the bank. As a civic leader in our community, he served on numerous orga-

nizations including on the advisory board at Somerset Community College. For many years he served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky.

Dick was more than a local leader. He was well-known throughout the Commonwealth, as a great civic and business leader. He was awarded "man of the year" in 1965 by a Louisville radio station. But he was our man of the year for many more years to come and will continue to be.

Mr. Cooper married Cornelia Dozier in 1961, and she is a leader in her own right in community and cultural affairs. He also leaves behind two children and five grand children. Dick was a brother to the late U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper, who served with great distinction in Congress from just after World War II until the early 70's.

He came from a good family and leaves a good one behind. Family, friends, and associates from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky will remember him. He touched many lives and hearts with his genuine concern for them, and his example of leadership with purpose and dedication. I am just one of them.

The world is a better place because of the life of Dick Cooper.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 18th and missed Rollcall Vote 876 on passage of H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

This legislation makes great strides in allowing the Federal Housing Administration to reach a greater number of borrowers seeking homeownership by increasing loan limits to keep pace with the rising cost of homes, and it offers new, important protections to borrowers who are vulnerable to exploitation in the subprime and predatory loan markets.

The bill also includes numerous other strong measures to help address our Nation's affordable housing crisis, and I would like to express my gratitude for this bill's passage in the House.

CONGRATULATING JOSEPH AND JOAN PRZYWARA ON THE OCCA- SION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Joseph and Joan Przywara, of West Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate 50 years of marriage.

On September 14, 1957, Mr. and Mrs. Przywara were joined in marriage at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Church in Wilkes-Barre.